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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

MAY 1st, 1919

ISSUED MONTHLY
FOR
THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

PER ANNUM: **5/-** IN ADVANCE.



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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

No. 5 | Vol. 3 | 5/- Per Annum.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association on payment of fees as follows:—1 to 15 Hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to
FRED C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL.

We make no apology for again opening the question of the appointment of a Chief Apiarist. Last year, when a deputation waited upon the Minister of Agriculture and brought this matter before him, he promised that if a suitable man could be found the appointment would be made. About a fortnight after that the Secretary of the National received a letter from the Minister stating that the appointment was impractical at that time, but would be kept in view for favourable consideration after the war. The war is now over, therefore we can with all confidence again refer to the need of the appointment being made.

We noted at the beginning of April two positions as Agricultural Instructors (£380-400 per annum) were advertised; therefore in these and in others the Department evidently considers that no hardship is being done to those who have not yet returned from active service, so we cannot be accused of undue haste in pressing our claim. It cannot be urged that only the beekeeping industry must consider the men who have fought for us, because, as a matter of fact, there are fewer beekeepers

there than any other class of agricultural occupation. If other branches of the Department warrant appointments at £380-400, then our industry is entitled to the same consideration.

We believe an alternative proposal is being considered—viz., that of appointing two more one-year cadets as inspectors, with which we do not agree. In the first place, we do not consider that it is wise to increase the staff without having a responsible head to direct and organise it. A small staff efficiently directed is better than a large one that is pretty well allowed to go its own sweet way. There is another more serious position involved in the appointment of one-year cadets from the Ruakura Apiary, in the fact that they have very little opportunity of seeing foul-brood there, and cannot be very experienced in detecting it. We have known men who have had a fair amount of experience in beekeeping being sometimes puzzled at the real nature of the disease affecting the brood, and we hardly think it wise to give these inexperienced beginners—which is all they can be termed—the power to destroy people's property.

We have received a complaint from a Branch Secretary that one of these young fellows was ordering people to treat their bees in the fall of the year, when there was no possibility of the bees being able to pull themselves round for wintering—meaning, of course, total loss of the bees. No practical man would give such orders: if the bees are diseased and would probably die through the winter, then destroy; but if there was a reasonable possibility that the hive would winter all right (here again is practical experience necessary), then no harm would be done by allowing them to remain as they are until the spring, because the disease is not increasing in the hive in the winter when no brood is being raised.

We question very much whether it is wise to make one-year cadets inspectors; the correct thing would be for the Department to recognise that our industry is worthy of practical men being appointed at a salary commensurate with the experience necessary to fill the positions satisfactorily. We hope both these appointments will be thoroughly discussed at Conference, and strong representations made to the Minister or Director-General to secure for the industry the attention it deserves.

* * * *

In connection with destroying hives, the following clipping was sent us:—

> An old couple living at Himatangi, and who for years past have derived the best part of their living from beekeeping, had their swarms and hives destroyed by a departmental officer owing to non-compliance with the regulations governing bee-farming.—New Zealand Times.

This, without any further evidence, looks rather hard, and it would not be the work of an inexperienced cadet, as they are in the South Island, and we have no doubt the circumstances of the case justified the action. But if a certain number of those who have complained to us wrote the papers and ventilated the fact that they had lost their property through the orders of an inexperienced officer, we think the Department would find it hard to justify their action in making these appointments.

* * * *

We contend that no man should occupy a position in the Department that has not had practical experience in the industry—one that can be appealed to for assistance in any branch, and who can give advice to those seeking it from his own personal experience to his profit or loss. It is the easiest thing possible when appealed to to look up a text-book and give the same advice, but that is only what others have done in probably different circumstances and conditions, and in many cases mean failure when applied to New Zealand conditions. No cadet can possibly have the experience of how to manipulate hives in the spring to the best advantage; the work at Ruakura does not allow it, and one of the cadets who is now an inspector admitted to the Editor that he lost a greater part of the crop in the apiary he was given charge of previous to his appointment by not putting the supers on until the flow was over. This young fellow is now styled Government expert (sic) by those who do not know any better.

We hope the Conference will make it clear to the Director-General that the industry should be recognised at its true worth to the State, and that the Apiaries Division be put on a good sound basis, with a practical man in charge, and an experienced staff to work with him.

* * * *

The crop reports are coming in fairly well, and some are "hummers." By the way, have you sent along yours yet? Do please, at once, and, also by the way, do not forget to stamp the post-card, will you? Some did.

* * * *

The programme for Conference is gradually being filled, but there is yet room for two or three more. Please make up your mind before the 20th of the month, and let the Secretary know the title of the subject.

* * * *

We have already stated that the evening of the second day of Conference is to be set apart for a supper and social evening. This means that we shall want all those who are in any way gifted to assist in entertaining, and to that end the Secretary would be grateful to any intending visitor who can sing a song, play an instrument, or recite, to let him know some time this month that he or she will help in this matter, so that a programme can be drawn up. We want the evening to be a really sociable one, and if it can be arranged entirely amongst ourselves, it will be better than having to engage outside talent.

The financial year of the Association ends on the 31st of this month, therefore it is necessary that all subscriptions be paid by then. We shall appreciate your help in enabling the Secretary to furnish an even better report than last year by sending the subscriptions along.

* * * *

We have received from the H.P.A. an open letter from the manager addressed to the shareholders, and we desire to offer to that gentleman our co-operation and assistance in every way. The objects of the National and the marketing of the beekeepers' crops are very closely linked, and we are quite willing and anxious to advertise all operations tending to the betterment of the industry.

We shall probably criticise and comment on matters as they crop up, but only in the sense of assisting both the H.P.A. and its suppliers.

We note the Directors have fixed the following as the advances to be paid out for this season's honey:—

Light Amber, A & B Grade ..	5d.
Medium Amber, A & B Grade ..	4⅜d.
Dark Amber & C Grade, all colours	3¾d.

We noted in the contract, commented on last month, that the guaranteed price for first grade honey was to be 60/- per cwt. f.o.b. without recourse, which is 6.43d. per lb., and as the supplier has to bear all charges to put the honey f.o.b., we do not quite understand why the Directors have decided to pay out only 5d., which, when the charges are deducted, will come somewhere about 4⅝d. We noted in a report of the market prices ruling in Christchurch on April 5th that honey was quoted as being worth 7½d. per lb. in bulk. Whilst this is so, the advance paid by the H.P.A. does not compare favourably. The latest returns from Liverpool are 100/- and 105/- for honey of similar quality to ours, so it appears there will be a fair margin of profit made in England, and there should be no danger of the new season's produce not returning full values after paying the increased freight charges. We quite realise that the price paid by the H.P.A. is only an advance, but we also realise that if they do not pay out the fullest possible amount, it leaves an opportunity for competitors to offer a straight-out price that is liable to tempt those who would otherwise have become shareholders.

* * * *

We note with very great pleasure the formation of another branch of the National at Greymouth, on the West Coast of the South Island, which starts with a membership of twenty-two. This is the third Branch started in the South, and is a very healthy sign of the development of the industry. We extend to our new friends a very hearty welcome, with the assurance of our assistance in every possible way.

We think it should be part of the work of the Executive to send an experienced beekeeper to these newly-formed Branches at least once during the winter months, which we feel would not only be appreciated by them, but would be evidence of the help and co-operation that is the sole object of the National's existence, and we hope something of the above suggestion will be carried out.

* * * *

The manager of the H.P.A. reports that a very large quantity of honey has come forward, that the graders have a difficult task to get ahead of their work, and owing to this fact a number of lines received previous to the Easter holidays were unable to be graded, consequently the cheques will be a little delayed.

* * * *

Market prospects continue good, and the final returns for this season's crop promise to be very satisfactory. Shipping space is still exceedingly scarce, and conditions in the Old Country are still abnormal.

* * * *

In the April "Fruitgrower" friend Hopkins is replying to the Editor's remarks in the March issue of the Journal relative to his action in applying to the British Beekeepers' Association for a copy of their examination schedule. Amongst the remarks are:—"If our worthy friend is desirous of taking his cue for his schedule of queries for examination, he surely has it in the series now running through the 'British Bee Journal,' which, up to my last Journal received (Feb. 27, 1919), had reached 287, in which is:—'251—What are Malpighian tubes?' What this and similar ridiculous questions that run through such a vast series have to do with practical bee culture is past comprehension, and could only emanate from someone who cannot understand what is required in commercial beekeeping," &c., &c.

Good for you, old friend! We like a man to speak his mind, but would suggest that if we are going to cheat at all, let's cheat fair! Surely, to single out one question that suits your purpose of argument and brand the series as ridiculous is not "playing the game." Why not publish the whole list appearing with "What are Malpighian Tubes?" It is unfair and unjust to the compiler of these (to us) excellent series, and to prove it we will give the list appearing with 251.

241. In what circumstances are drones prevented from having food?

242. Explain clearly why bees should not be disturbed in winter.

243. Why should a second rack of sections not be put in a hive before the first is at least half filled?

244. Describe the Claustral Hive, and state the advantages claimed from the use of it.

245. How may foundation which has become brittle and darkened in colour be improved for use?

246. What fixes the limit to the number of artificial swarms which may without loss be taken from a colony?

247. Give a list of the races of bees used by beekeepers, and state briefly the characteristics of each.

248. How should a movable frame hive containing bees be made secure for removal by rail?

249. Draw a sketch of the queen's sting, and state the difference between this sting and that of a worker bee.

250. What are the diseases to which, so far as at present known, the adult bee is liable?

251. What are Malpighian tubes?

252. Make notes for a 15-minute lecture on "The Beekeeper who attributes his want of success to ill-luck."

Our readers can judge in how far the term "ridiculous" applies, and they will have an opportunity of judging further, because we are going to use this series as a basis on which to enlarge the work of the National and its Branches. The Editor was asked by a secretary of a newly-formed Branch for suggestions for winter meetings, and as it is his opinion that all winter work should be instructional, has selected and published elsewhere a list of fifteen questions which he has submitted to the secretaries of the three new Branches.

We shall not use the questions relating to the anatomy of the bee unless desired, neither shall we use those that relate to conditions ruling in England, but the remainder are certainly of very great use. The Editor has always maintained that the work of the National should be organisation and instruction, and this experiment of his will be watched with keen interest. Up to the present nothing of this kind has been suggested, and even if the present venture does not prove successful, we can at least say—we tried.

* * * *

In the "Otago Witness" dated 16th April, our friend Mr. Jas. Allan comments on the short courses in "Bee Culture" arranged by Dr. Phillips, Government Apiculturist to the U.S.A., and his assistant, G. S. Demuth. After detailing the very great success that attended these courses, Mr. Allan goes on to say the need of similar courses in New Zealand, and winds up with the following:—

"Our trouble is that we have no Dr. Phillips. Our industry of bee-culture is under the sheltering wing of the Horticultural Division, and the Director of that Division is not a beekeeper, though he has done and is still rendering invaluable service in the organising of our industry. What we want is a Chief Apiarist just as enthusiastic when he gets into the inner mysteries of a bee hive as the Director of Horticulture is when he gets amongst apples—a man who knows bee-culture from A to Z, and who is able both to teach and to organise. We are fighting for this man, and the fight is likely to be very much in earnest during the coming Conference in June, but in that connection we are in some danger. We want a big man—a Dr. Phillips if possible. If we make a place for a Chief Apiarist, and get a little man liable to be tied in a knot with red tape, and only able to see through departmental eyes—well, it is quite possible that we won't have gained much. Let us, when we press for our Chief Apiarist, above everything else press for a big man."

Hear, hear! friend Allan.

Market Reports.

Since our report of the 25th January the condition of the market has not improved. Stocks, however, have increased considerably. We hear of small sales of Chilian at 105/- and Californian at 100/-.

Beeswax.—The market is too quiet to fairly test prices.

TAYLOR & CO.

Liverpool, 25th February, 1919.

Fair supplies of honey have been offering during the past month, chiefly coastal, and, being of good quality, have found ready sale, with clearances and prices on the whole quite satisfactory.

During the past week information has come to hand of the fall in London values by fully 50 per cent., and Australian honey is freely offering at from 85/- to 90/- per cwt. without inducing sales. The immediate effect here has been the holding off by grocers and wholesale houses beyond actual requirements in anticipation of packed stocks still unshipped coming on to the local market.

The unfavourable season just past, however, has produced so little honey that to meet the long period between now and next season's flow, a large quantity of packed honey, if judiciously placed on the market, could possibly be absorbed without prejudicing values greatly.

Latest quotations are:—Choice, clear liquid Western, 7d. to 7½d. per lb.; best Coastal, 6d. to 6½d. per lb.; dark and strong flavoured, 5d. to 5½d.

—The Australasian Beekeeper.

15th March, 1919.

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the apiary instructors the following report concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—Large quantities of honey for export are now arriving at the grading store in Auckland. The quality generally appears good. Local prices remain unchanged. Beeswax is in demand at from 2/- to 2/3 per lb.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—At the time of writing there is still a quantity of honey being gathered by the bees. The summer is likely to prove late in closing, thus giving a lengthened opportunity to the gatherers. The crop has been fair to good, and anything gathered from now onward will not materially affect the output. A number of small consignments are arriving at the grading stores for export. Prices are not so firm as formerly, owing to large consignments of Californian arriving on the English markets. Section honey is scarce, and beeswax is bringing 2/3 per lb.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—The season is practically finished. Extracting is still engaging the attention of beekeepers in some districts, but the bulk of the crop has been secured. Consignments for export are now coming forward. As previously reported, the crop in Southland is a failure, consequently none is available for export. The quality of the honey this season is excellent, as is usual when the clover blooms freely. Prices are firm. Sections to 8/6 per dozen. Pat honey, none forward. Beeswax is in strong demand, and is quoted at 2/- per lb.—E. A. Earp.

Branch of the National Association formed at Greymouth.

A very successful meeting of the beekeepers of the district was held on Saturday, 12th April, which attracted a large number of people interested in the industry.

Mr. A. Baty was voted to the chair, and in his opening address touched upon the possibilities of the industry on the West Coast of the South Island. He stated that the district was behind-hand in beekeeping, chiefly owing to the erroneous reports regarding climatic conditions; but the beekeepers there were determined to show to the world that the industry could be carried on as successfully on the West Coast as elsewhere.

Mr. Baty stated the object of the meeting was to decide whether they should form a Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, which was the organisation recognised and subsidised by the Government as being the best means of getting the industry organised so as to develop it to the fullest extent.

A letter was read from Mr. F. C. Baines, Secretary of the National, in which was stated the assistance the parent body would give by paying initial expenses of starting the Branch, supplying stationery, also the gift of the "Beginners' Handbook" for free distribution among the members as soon as they arrive from the printers. Help would also be extended to the Branch to maintain interest by securing the services of experienced men to visit the members from time to time.

A motion was then put and carried unanimously—"That those present form a Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, to the improvement of the industry throughout the Dominion."

Mr. D. T. Cochrane was elected Secretary and Mr. Cottle Treasurer.

It is hoped that the next meeting, to be held in about three weeks' time, will have a very large attendance, of which due notice will be given to all members and intending members. A special invitation will be issued to all ladies and returned soldiers who are interested.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair, with a spirit of strong enthusiasm.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

Since my last "tales" were told, Canterbury has experienced another drought. Scarcely any rain has fallen since the middle of February up till the end of the first week in April. I think I am safe in saying that we have had better beekeeper's weather during the above period than any other time during the season.

Extracting, no doubt, is over—it is with me; and when beekeepers meet, the first question is: "Well, what luck?" Then, of course, if one has a good crop, notes are compared, and each one tries to quote the record of some particular queen to beat the other.

Speaking of queens reminds me. I wonder if anyone else has had the same experience as myself this season. I have found that a great percentage of queens reared previous to the middle of February were lost, or turned out to be drone layers. Since then normal conditions have ruled. I have found, also, that the honey gathered in the early part of the season was very slow to granulate. Why? Mr. Barker gave a very interesting paper on the subject at a previous Conference, and I am hoping he will be able to throw more light on the matter at the next. I have seen the statement in "Gleanings"—by J. L. Byer, I think—that the riper the honey the sooner it will granulate. I do not feel too sure that the degree of ripeness, if such a term is admissible, fully covers the ground.

Well, Canterbury beekeepers have got a good crop anyway, and by the time this appears in print we hope the honey will be granulated, but at the time of writing it looks as if there is another "rock ahead!" Listen! "The Lyttelton Harbour Board announces that, owing to pressure of shipping orders for goods ex the Board's stores, further consignments of grain or produce will not be received for

one week, and thereafter only at such periods as may be arranged by merchants or consignors with the Board's warehouseman.''

What's to be done? I'm hoping the H.P.A. will grapple with the situation, and not leave it to individual shareholders to make arrangements. No doubt we beekeepers think no "small beer" of ourselves, but after all the whole of our crop in one decent sized vessel would not go a great way in filling it. Perhaps the space required for grading may be a stumbling-block. Anyway, I am hoping our newly-appointed manager will "rise to the occasion."

Mr. Editor, that article on the H.P.A. contract certainly IS good reading, and I endorse heartily your comments on it. If there are any "doubting Thomases" in the ranks of beekeepers, that article should dissipate all their fears. Yet I have heard of some honey producers who are willing to accept a local offer rather than take the little trouble of putting the honey up in proper manner for export. They say: "It's too much bother branding cases, oiling tins, putting on strapping," &c., &c. I hope the time is not far distant when the Association will be able to supply shareholders with everything. both for the production and packing of the crop, and also that it will be prepared to buy all the honey offering from non-shareholders. It is time the producers had control of the whole output, so that they can secure the whole of the profits. I believe that a systematic canvas of the whole of the honey producers, such as farmers and side-liners of all sorts would be good "biz" on the part of the H.P.A., and would swell the roll of shareholders enormously.

I see by a report in the "Lyttelton Times" recently that the box-hive man is not yet dead in Canterbury, one having been fined for keeping box-hives and failing to register. This is refreshing, and I hope will have a stimulating effect on the many yet remaining who have not been favoured with a visit from the inspector.

I saw a display of honey in a Christchurch grocer's window when last in town. Some was in glass vessels and some in tins; some was liquid, some granulated, and some "betwixt and between." Colour varied from that of treacle through various stages to an indescribable kind of yellowish white, and the whole labelled "Pure Clover Honey." It set me thinking. Evidently the public are willing to take a good deal on trust, or they would never accept the legend as true. Here, I thought, is a chance for that National exhibit, so long talked about, and a chance to do a little educating.

The date of the Conference is fast approaching, and suggests a few thoughts. Several people, in discussing last year's Conference, said, "Don't you think there was rather too much 'hot air' at the opening?" I had to admit that it did seem to take a good deal of time to get through the opening ceremony; and after all our honey did not get away in time to realise those dazzling prices which were ruling in England. I see also the three days are still adhered to. Half a day was taken up by H.P.A. business last year, but I have not seen any mention of the same arrangement for this year. It will be remembered that much of the business was rushed at the end last year, and there was a "slaughter of the innocents" in the finish. I predict the same again unless we "get a move on."

There has been talk of a kind of preliminary Conference to be held in Christchurch before the Dominion Conference. Mr. Bray has been active in the matter—in fact, the suggestion came from him; but at a small meeting of the Canterbury Branch, held on Saturday, 12th April, the feeling of those attending was that there would not be sufficient support to warrant the experiment. It was decided to invite Mr. Bray to the annual meeting in June, and frame remits to be supported by those attending the Wellington Conference instead.

[The National's exhibit is held up owing to the lack of suitable jars being obtained, unless Conference decides that one made up of the ordinary screw-top jar is better than none.—The Conference itself is for three days; the H.P.A. meeting takes place on the 10th June.—Ed.]

An Appeal.

At the annual meeting of the H.P.A., held at Hamilton on 29th March last, the Auckland shareholders expressed their regret at Mr. Gilling's resignation from the management, but expressed satisfaction at his having accepted nomination for the Directorate, and pledged their support to him at the adjourned meeting in Wellington. It was felt also that Mr. Gilling has never been adequately recompensed for the amount of work he has done for the Association, he having nursed the H.P.A. up to its present prosperous position, and previous to June, 1918, received little more than an honorarium. In view of this fact, it was decided to open a subscription list and appeal to all the shareholders to donate a guinea each, as we feel sure that all will agree that the H.P.A. would not be in the position it is to-day had it not been for the unselfish self-sacrifice of our mutual friend.

It is the intention at present to present a purse of sovereigns to Mr. Gilling at the forthcoming adjourned meeting at Wellington.

All donations to be sent to Mr. E. W. Sage, Ohaupo, and we, the shareholders present at the annual meeting, commend this to the earnest consideration of all shareholders.

Work for the Winter Months.

By FRED C. BAINES.

I have been asked by one of the newly-formed Branches to forward suggestions for meetings in the winter, and feel I cannot do better than use as a basis the series of questions that have been running through the "British Bee Journal" since September, 1918.

I feel sure that the self-examination required to answer these will result in many experienced men having to refer to the text-book, and the beginner and amateur must of necessity increase in knowledge of the industry by carefully studying and answering them.

I cordially acknowledge my indebtedness to the "British Bee Journal" and its valued contributor, "J. L. B.," for giving me such an excellent lead.

My suggestion is that either the President or Secretary of the Branch take the questions and text-book to the meeting, and have discussion on every question and answer. I feel sure this would mean a pleasant and profitable evening to all concerned. To those who are not attached to a Branch, a profitable time could be spent at home by using the questions and writing down the answer against them.

1. What is the most preferable site for an apiary, and how should the hives be disposed thereon?
2. What approximately is the area in square miles of the ground over which bees will usually forage for nectar?
3. Amplify the saying that "the best time to do spring feeding is in the autumn before."
4. What considerations should be put to a beginner to help in deciding whether to work his apiary for comb or extracted honey?
5. Give a list of the races of bees used by beekeepers and the characteristics of each.
6. What are the diseases to which, so far as at present known, the adult bee is liable?
7. What disadvantages arise from crowding the hives in an apiary?
8. State the extent to which entrances to hives should be open at the several important periods of the year, and give reasons for the differences.
9. Compare the Italian with the ordinary black bee.
10. What circumstances or conditions cause or favour dysentery in a hive, and how may its presence be detected?
11. What aspect should a hive preferably face, and why?
12. What are the indications that robbers are attacking a hive?
13. What should be done—(1) to prevent and (2) check robbing?
14. What circumstances must be avoided or guarded against during manipulation in order to prevent irritation or annoyance to the bees?
15. What is the best part of the day for handling bees generally and examining the hives, and why? Give also the exceptions.

I think the above should be quite sufficient for an evening, but if more are necessary this can easily be arranged.

Auckland Provincial Branch.

The annual meeting of the Auckland Provincial Branch of the National Beekeepers' Association will be held in the Public Bath Rooms, Hamilton, on 30th May, at 10.30 a.m.

Business:

To receive the annual report and balance sheet.

To receive resignations of President and Secretary.

Appoint delegate to Wellington Conference.

Election of Officers.

General business.

E. W. SAGE, Hon. Secretary.

To Beekeepers—Beginners or Experts.

TAKE NOTE.—The Dates of the ANNUAL CONFERENCE are

JUNE 11th, 12th and 13th.

We want a Record Attendance this year.

Honey Producers Association.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., was held at the Baths Hall, Hamilton, on Saturday, 29th March. It was expected that only a very few shareholders would be present, owing to the fact that it was known that the meeting would be adjourned to Wellington, to be held in June during the period in which will be held the Conference of the National Beekeepers' Association. However, about twenty shareholders were present, and Mr. A. H. Davies was voted to the chair.

The annual general meeting of the Association was then adjourned, and it was decided to hold same at Edmanson's Hall, Lambton Quay, Wellington, on 10th June, at 2.30 p.m.

An informal discussion in regard to H.P.A. matters then took place. Particular interest was displayed in the question as to whether the Association should go extensively into the beekeepers' supplies business, and the meeting resolved to urge upon the shareholders at the annual meeting in Wellington the necessity of developing seriously this branch of the business.

Mr. H. W. Gilling, who was present, was very warmly received, and was thanked for his great services to the Association and industry, and the hope was expressed that his services would not be entirely lost to the industry.

Mr. C. F. Ryland, the newly-appointed manager, was also present at the meeting, and took the opportunity to meet and address those present. He emphasised the fact that only by unity on the part of all shareholders, together with loyalty to the directorate and management, could the ideals of the Association be realised. Mr. Ryland asked that any misunderstandings and troubles should be relegated to the past, and that shareholders should seize the present favourable opportunity to make their business a great success. Those present pledged themselves to loyally support the management and the new manager.

A good strong tone was struck at the meeting, and there were indications of a healthy condition of affairs, and the enthusiasm amongst the Auckland shareholders augurs well for the prosperity of the Association.

Beekeepers' Exchange.

ADVERTISEMENTS on this Page will be inserted at the rate of 3/- per 36 words per insertion.

Answers to Correspondents.

W. W., Geraldine.—Many thanks. Journals have been sent "Rakaia." Am sorry I cannot publish your letter, as you did not sign your name, which is required as evidence of good faith. Besides, you state your district is very much in need of inspection, and very often the Department ask me the name of my informant on these matters, which, in your case, I cannot supply. Regarding the antagonism towards beekeeping in your locality, send a letter to your local paper, pointing out the feeling that is being displayed, and ask the Editor to publish the article "Bees in Relation to Agriculture," by Mr. Hopkins, from the Bee Bulletin. The reason the apiary mentioned had to be shifted was because of annoyance to passers-by, not antagonism to beekeeping.

A. L. L., Awakeri.—No you don't! Too hot altogether. I am getting rather canny when names are mentioned. Have a cold bath, and then write another one.

C. H. B., Christchurch.—Not raising white mice, eh? Started raising silkworms? How interesting! Say, how do your friends greet you? "Well, Charles, how are the worms this morning?" Would sound funny, wouldn't it? Come to Conference and sing at the social, "Here we go round the mulberry bush"!

H. D., Lake Grassmere.—Sainfoin is a clover used in pasture-sowing. Your subscription arrived after the addressed wrappers were sent away, hence second application.

R. A. M., Lower Hutt.—Have a good mind to publish your request, then what would you say?

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Perhaps some of your readers would be interested to hear of a little bee observation of mine at Lake Okataina, in the Rotorua District. At this lake there must be many colonies of bees in the rock crevices and forest trees round the shores, as I could see dozens flying across over head when passing over the lake in the boat. One day was very calm, windless except for a light drift of air, which had no effect in the sheltered bays, and as we drifted idly over the water I noticed a long, dark line of rapidly vibrating ripples, and on investigation found it was caused by the struggles of thousands of floating bees, which had evidently drifted to a sheltered place, where the light air had left them in this long struggling line. I had heard that keeping bees near water did not pay, and had seen many dead bees on lake shores, but had never thought so many could fall victims to the water on a calm, windless day like that described. Perhaps they tried to settle for rest on the reflection of trees in the water. I suppose the moral of this is "Never start an apiary near an expanse of water." This lake is only about two miles wide.

I have been told that humble bees puncture the flowers of broad beans. Can you tell me if this is so? Has anybody ever really seen the humble bee eat a hole in a flower? I have watched, but can never see the damage done, although both humble bees and honey bees come and work. What

I have noticed is that when a humble bee visits a broad bean flower, she always goes to the legitimate entrance, but never to the puncture; but the honey bee will sometimes use the back door as a short cut.—I am, &c.,

A. E. S. BOSHER.

Makino, Oroua, 4th April, 1919.

[We were told of a similar occurrence of drifting and drowning bees that were seen in the Tauranga Harbour; there were so many bees that it was thought a swarm had settled on a limb overhanging the sea, and some cattle had shaken it into the water. Regarding the puncturing of the blossoms of broad beans by bumble bees, although we have never seen it done, they have always had the credit of it, and when we answered the question in the affirmative, our old friend Hopkins said we were wrong. He had a little discussion on the same matter in the Journal of Agriculture, and is evidently satisfied himself that bumble bees do not puncture the blossoms.—Ed.]

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The Journal to hand by to-day's mail, also card, which I return with my quantities, &c. I might add that we had over 3 ft. of snow here, which lay for close on six weeks last winter. However, I had bought my experience previously, and had left a full super of honey on all my colonies, and all came out well. I have done the same this season, so that I have easily another half ton which I could have taken had I felt so inclined; but after one season's picnic of syrup and candy—never again. I reckon the stores are the best, and the bees come on well as soon as the willows bloom; in fact, I had some to extract at that time this season. My best colony produced 150 lbs. extracted honey. The locality here is not what one would call first-class for bee-farming, as there is too much sheep-farming, so that the season here is very short, and keeps one going night and day while the flow is on. I use half depth supers for convenience. It means getting to work oftener, but the lifting is not nearly so heavy, and the Lea knife makes a nice clean cut across the whole frame.—I am, &c.,

ARCHD. R. DICKIE.

Rotherham, April 4th, 1919.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The question was recently asked me by a beekeeper—"What is the difference between our Honey Producers' Association and a trust, such trusts, for instance, as operate in America?" Will you or some other capable person answer it through the columns of the Journal?

How does the following appeal to you in the treatment of foul-brood? Having bought an apiary of about thirty colonies last spring, all diseased, I treated same as follows:—Queens all killed, and prepared cells started in strongest colonies same day, having distributed cells after ten days had elapsed they were left a further three weeks, when they were treated after the McEvoy plan. Being bad weather, only a few queens mated before treatment, but practically all the remainder mated a few days after, and to my surprise none deserted. The above is not high-pressure beekeeping—more in the wholesale line. The point I wish you to notice is—the hives were re-queened while the brood hatched, and not much time or labour expended. Yes, they gathered some surplus to

J. WALUNTH.

[There is no comparison between the H.P.A. and the trust in America: they are out to kill the small man; the H.P.A. is out to help him.—Do I understand you raised the queens in strong hives yet affected with foul-brood? That is rather unorthodox, and certainly risky. Were not a large proportion of the larvæ diseased? Would not the weather account for the mating before and after treatment, as it must have improved for the bees to build up and store a surplus with the poor season you have had?—Ed.]

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Do I understand that if I come to the Conference I shall hear Mr. F. C. Baines on "The Physics of Heat" (in argumentio scientifica), when B.B.M. gets the "Glutton" on the go and puts his (Baines') finger on the spot? I am rather

INTERESTED

[No danger!—Ed.]

Returned Soldiers' Appeals.

One of our members and subscribers left his bees in charge of a friend whilst he went to "do his bit." He has now returned with a serious malady, but one that beekeeping will considerably help to rid him of. He finds his bees in a neglected state with regard to the queens, and is appealing for any two-year-old queens that are being replaced by members. The name and address will be furnished by the Editor.

* * * *

The following letter calls for little comment, and we trust some of our professional friends can offer something suitable.

Te Ata Mai, Mills road,
Brooklyn, Wellington.

Sir,—As a discharged soldier fit for light duties (heart trouble), with a wife and boy two and a-half years, I am anxious to learn bee-farming. I am 37 years of age, having spent 20 years at the cabinetmaking, carpentry and joinery, and classified a first-class tradesman. Do you know of a place where I could take my family (the wife will assist in household duties), where for a small wage we could learn the business, with a view to buying same under the

Soldiers' Settlement System? Would prefer the North Island, or a mild climate, if possible. Trusting that you will be able to help me, and thanking you in anticipation,—I am, &c.,

HERBERT I. FURNISS.

20th March, 1919.

P.S.—Enclosed please find p.n. for 5/-, being one year's sub. to the Journal.

Treatment of Foul Brood.

By J. C. HOBBS.

Having had very signal success in the treatment of foul-brood, I have decided to give the readers of this Journal the benefit of my success.

During the past spring and summer I have simply transferred the bees on to full sheets of foundation, with an empty comb in the middle of hive to hold the bees, and also for them to deposit their honey in. I did the transferring early in the mornings, or in the evenings, as was most convenient to me. I took out the combs that were placed in the centre of the hives in one to five days, as suited me best. Sometimes I was away from the apiary from three to five days, but I have found that the transferring cured the disease just as well if the combs were taken away from three to five days afterwards. I always took away the comb on the second day in the evening if I was at home. If there was no honey flow, I gave the bees a comb of sugar syrup at the side of the hives—inside, of course. In every case they emptied the combs, and built out the foundation in the middle of the hives, which I consider very satisfactory. Some of them had to be fed three or four combs at different times.

What struck me as rather remarkable was that some of the colonies transferred took with them quite a lot of honey from the old hives, while some took practically none at all. To my mind, this shows why transferring straight on to foundation in some cases cures and in others does not.

I much prefer feeding the transferred hives with a comb of syrup to using a feeder. I expect to soon use my feeders for kindling. When transferring I use ten frames to the hive.

Over thirty hives have been treated by me this season without any returns of foul-brood.

Kauwhata, Palmerston North.

It Pays to Keep Bees.

By PIONEER.

III.

(Continued from January issue.)

A certain wise man hath said that the secret of success with bees is "More bees." I, like the caterpillar in "Alice in Wonderland," would say, contrarywise—First, is location; second, the bees; third, the man; then—as you will—More Bees. Heaps of people seem to think all they have to do is to provide bees with a good home, and then they can sit on their thumbs, whilst the bees gather the honey from the—nowhere! A friend of mine who made this mistake struggled along for three years, and at the close of that period made a bonfire of the paraphernalia he had collected and danced round it like a Red Indian with delight as it burnt. But another friend bought his bees and removed them into the country, and last season one of these queens produced him 300 lbs. of honey. Yea, verily the mistakes of amateurs are legion. The young fellow who was helping me extract honey to-day (now a very capable apiarist) was telling me one of his early experiences. He and his brother went shares—he ran an orchard and vinery; his brother "took the fever" and ran an apiary of some eight colonies. They agreed to mutually assist one another (a very suitable combination). They gave these poor bees no rest—coddled them well; but one cold autumn day rude Boreas tore off the lid of their best colony and filled it with snow. Great was their grief when they discovered it. Said Tom, "Edward, the bees are dead." They shook them unresisting from the frames into the cold snow under a neighbouring bush, and put away the combs. Then Tom remembered that his mate in town had scoffed at his bee-yarns—didn't believe there was any such thing as a queen bee; so he fished out the moribund queen, a few drones, and some workers, and, placing them in a match-box, slipped it into his pocket, and hied him to town to convince his mate of his error. At their favourite street corner he met his cobber, and produced his box of bees; but when he opened it—out buzzed the bees! Tom slammed to the lid, thus saving his queen. The cobber had disappeared round one corner; Tom belted round the other, making for the tram; his precious bees were not dead. He wanted to get home as quickly as he could. Then he and his brother gathered together the bees from the snow, re-introduced their queen to them, and warmed up the lot before the kitchen fire. Oh, joy! they all came to life again, and, strange to say, notwithstanding their rough experience, next season that colony became a paying proposition. This was their first acquaintance with the fact of bee hybernation. Queen bee excluders I used almost from the commencement, and I could not find

that they hindered the bees in the storing of honey, as some affirm. I used to leave them on the whole year round. But I think, with an apiarist who is able to give his whole attention to his bees, a better way is not to make use of them till well into the season, then to put them on, and at the same time removing brood from the brood chamber into the top storey, and replacing with foundation. Some beekeepers, however, will not have them at any price; I would not do without them for ditto. It is a matter of location, probably. They must, however, cause the bees a certain amount of trouble in cleaning up—in removing dead bees, &c. This instinct in bees is very strong. One day I took off a top storey; on the excluder below I noticed a considerable number of dead bees, which their comrades had been trying to pull through. Most of the bees flew upwards at me and towards the light, but one took the opportunity to pounce on a near-by corpse and fly with it into space. They have improved excluders now, having wire ones, and also allowing for a bee-space below, which are a great improvement, and minimise these objections.

I had all hives painted white, and each brood-chamber had its stencilled number in black at the back.

Half the enjoyment to be got from bees as well as the practical results is to be got from the careful study of each individual colony. At extracting time I would put on some 12 or so Porter bee-escapes, and kept careful tally of what each colony produced; then, if the tally at the end of the season was not satisfactory, it was, of course, a case of "off with her head."

My average per colony at this time was 85 lbs., and I began to think I was justified in a larger expenditure, and so as I was building a bigger fruit-house, I converted the old one into a honey-house, had a double honey tank made, each with a capacity of half a ton, got a German wax press, which, however, is not to be compared with the Hatch wax press, which I now use, and specialised in putting up my honey in 2 lb. Aitken honey-bags, which just then were "the" thing; they took well with the public, and I did well. At this time I used to practise "spreading the brood" very extensively—i.e., in the height of the honey flow I removed the first and often the second frame from either side of the brood chamber, split up the brood nest, and inserted between frames of foundation, extracting the with-drawn combs and putting them back in the top storey. This course is deprecated, I know, by many apiarists, but I never found it deleterious, and only gave it up when "by thronging duties pressed" I had to confine myself to one extracting season. It seemed to me to give the bees an impetus, for there are I.W.Ws. amongst the weaker bees who propagate the "go-slow" doctrine if given a free hand. I sometimes wonder if it is they that sting so bad, for I have often noticed that they who make the freest of other people's rights are the most tenacious when their own are invaded. It was a Yankee who suggested that the best way to make bees produce honey was to go round and kick each colony hard every morning. There lies a hidden truth in this, but I would advise putting in "the other fellow" to do it. The community instinct in bees is most interesting. How did they learn so far ahead of us the truth that in working for others they are working for themselves. The way that each bee, when it attains a certain age, takes up its several and divers duties in its community is a marvel to the onlooker.

(To be continued.)

I write on account of the cordial manner and soundness of your Journal and the apparent good fellowship amongst beekeepers. There is something sweet in beekeeping besides honey.—A. W. P., Fairlie.

CONFERENCE AT CHRISTCHURCH.

An invitation is extended to all Beekeepers of Canterbury and Westland to attend a Conference to be held at Christchurch on May 30th and 31st. Papers and Addresses will be contributed by prominent beekeepers and officials of the Agricultural Department. Watch Christchurch daily papers for 24th and 28th May for full particulars of programme and meeting place.

W. B. BRAY, *Convener.*

How Much Heat Spoils Honey?

Having laid by the heels the bogey of the danger of overheating of honey by the BARTLETT-MILLER PATENT COMB REDUCER by last month's advertisement, here is the evidence of our oldest and most-relied-upon beekeeper in all Australasia as to its quality after such heating.

It appears that Mr. I. Hopkins and Inspector G. V. Westbrooke tried that very honey that was so highly overheated by the pressure of steam in the boiler provided at Ruakura.

The testing took place the day after the Show, when the inventor was not present.

Here is Mr. I. Hopkins' remarks on the honey, which I cull from p. 289 of the March number of the "N.Z. Fruitgrower." Writing about the demonstration, he remarks:—

"A rather remarkable point came out of the demonstration. It is well known that all saccharine matter is prone to take on a burnt taste when in contact with strong heat. This applies especially to honey when heated to anything above the melting point of wax—viz., 145 deg. Fahr., if retained at that for a while. Now, burnt honey has a most disagreeable flavour, and is spoiled for marketing purposes.

"Tests were made by the Apiary Instructor, Mr. Westbrocke, of the temperature of the honey as it left the Reducer, and although they gave 190 deg. Fahr., there was not the slightest burned taste about it, either then or the next morning, when we tried it in a cool condition.

"This can only be accounted for by the short time the honey is in contact with the heat.

"Nevertheless, it was the opinion of several of us that if the honey could be cooled off rapidly immediately after leaving the Reducer, it would be an advantage, in so far that it would tend to the retaining of the volatile substances in honey which make it so different from all other saccharine matter."

NOW THEN.

First, my esteemed critic remarks that next day the honey flavour was not in any way spoiled, and the only improvement he and others would suggest is the rapid cooling of the honey **AFTER** it left the Melter.

Now, does not each reader's common sense dictate that such cooling is a matter entirely for his own provision?

You will remember that the report of our Editor stated a difference of 20 degrees of heat in the honey even as it ran into and out of the Separator! As this Separator holds only 35 lbs. of honey, and if one runs two tons through it in eight hours, it must refill itself every four and a-half minutes, you will allow that the large surface of the Separator must do **SOME** cooling to reduce about two and a-half gallons of honey by 20 degrees in less than five minutes! What? Surely every reasonably-minded person will agree that further cooling, even if it was an absolute necessity—and the testing of the honey the next day abundantly proved that it was not necessary—is a matter for the apiarist himself to attend to, unless he likes to pay for some such water-cooling affair as dairymen use for cream, and that he can buy and fix up himself.

What I want to call attention to here is the utter absence of common gumption on the part of the ordinary individual!

Notice that those persons whom Mr. I. Hopkins quite properly announces the opinions of never for a moment realised that, if in the short space of time occupied in travelling through the Separator that honey lost a whole 20 deg. of heat, such heat must have been decreasing so rapidly as to need only that the honey should be poured into a tank, when the exposure to the air temperature alone would very soon decrease it to the melting point of wax, which is only 25 deg. lower still than when it left the hot Reducer.

This entire absence of all capability of seeing a fact that is as plainly to be recognised as the nose on one's face gets me mad! When— oh, when—will "the man in the street" begin to use the brains which Providence provided him with? It never occurred to any tester present at the demonstration to test how long it took for the honey to again reach the melting point of wax; but in my case, the whole matter with which the inventor was concerned was getting the wax and honey into such a condition and such a receptacle as would **ALLOW** of its ready reduction of heat. This the apparatus has by public demonstration given every possible proof of its ability to do; but if prospective purchasers are waiting for an invention of such double-barrelled capacity as to not only reduce and then separate, but also cool, they might as well wait a little longer for the Reducer that automatically weighs out the several quantities of slum gum, wax, and honey that goes through; and then cleans itself, shouts out the separate quantities, packs the final product, finds the customer, banks the proceeds, writes out the receipts, and gets the yard ready for next spring!!!

Now, isn't it obvious to the most dull of readers that an invention that keeps honey between 190 deg. and 170 deg. for only about five minutes when heated to 115 deg. over boiling heat, and then delivers the honey ready for further cooling by whatever device the honey producer may prefer, is about as near absolute perfection as man's ingenuity will perhaps ever reach?

To talk about further reduction of heat is to talk about an entirely separate apparatus! Of course, it can be attached to Separator if you like, but remember you will need a supply of cold water, and anyhow your honey tank will soon cool your honey, even if you do heat it to 115 deg. over boiling point.

Finally, you have the evidence of the loyen of our vocation that the BARTLETT-MILLER REDUCER does not spoil honey even when a heat of 337 deg. is applied to the Reducer, and for the full and sufficient reason that the most valuable point of the invention is that the honey cannot be delayed on its way to the outlet, and so is not heated (nor even over-heated) long enough to damage the colour or the flavour. If you want any better evidence than that given here, I do not know where I shall obtain it for you.

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